Appl. No. 10/530,676

Reply to Office Action of June 27, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 26648U

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims:** 

1. (Currently amended) An adapter comprising

an attachment means and a connection means to establish both a physical fit and flow

connection between:

- a container with one drain opening, otherwise being closed - and being substantially rigid,

<u>and</u>

- a device at least occasionally liquid demanding; an at least occasionally liquid demanding

device, where the attachment means [[have]] has one attachment port for providing a sealing

connection to the drain opening of at least one such detachable and possibly replaceable container

with properties to the surroundings, and

a valve being placed in fluid connection with [[the]] a flow-passage between the attachment port

and the connection means [[for]] of the liquid demanding device for automatically automatic

pressure equalizing the inside container in relation to the surrounding pressure substantially

simultaneously with the devices' draining of liquid from a such attached container, respectively,

characterized in,

the attachment means (2) at the attachment port (3) being configured to keep a presently

utilized container (4) by means of a sealing attack engagement in the drain opening (5) outlet

area (6), and in

the connection means (7) being shaped as a connection port (8) having externally having a

substantially prismatic or cylindrical (10) form, which fits in a correspondingly shaped deep hole

in the device (9), wherein after a certain – substantially translatoric – mutual telescoping of the

prism or cylinder (10) and the deep hole, a sealing to the prism or cylinder's surface cylinder

between the interior of the deep hole and the surroundings is established by sealing means,

a spring biased take-out valve (11) being provided in [[the]] a flow direction in the connection

port (8) of the adapter (1), being opened by means in the device (9) after the sealing to the

prism or cylinder (10) has been established; and [[that]], conversely, the take-out valve (11)

being closed during [[and]] or at least briefly after invalidation of the sealing to the prism or

cylinder (10) between the surroundings and the deep hole at mutual separation of the adapter

(1) and the device (9).

2. (Currently amended) An adapter according to claim 1, characterized in,

the sealing attack engagement of the attachment means in the outlet (6) of the container (4) resulting

in a mutual cohesive force, which is distinctively superior to the force produced by the sealing or

positioning to the prism or cylinder body (10), regardless of an actual size of the container, and actual

quantity and type of liquid present inside the container, resulting in, [[that]] said adapter (1) correctly

mounted according to [[a]] directions, will stay staying connected to the container (4) in the case of

the adapter's removal from the device (9) by force influenced on the container (4).

3. (Currently amended) An adapter according claim 2, characterized in, the attachment means (2)

having contact with the drain opening (5) wall consists consisting of an elastomer (12).

4. (Currently amended) An adapter according to claim 3, characterized in, that the attachment means

(2) for contact in the outlet area (6) are shaped as an overall truncated cone (13) pointing in the liquid

an upstream direction of the liquid.

5. (Currently amended) An adapter according to claim 4, characterized in, the overall truncated cone

(13) detailed having a form constantly stepped towards the tapered end constantly stepped form

substantially shaped as successively alternating adjacently placed circumferential ribs (14) and grooves

(15) with a characterizing diameter constantly decreasing respective characterizing diameter to

towards the tapered end.

6. (Currently amended) An adapter according to claim 5, characterized in, [[the]] a flow conduit of

the pressure equalizing valve (16) joining to the flow passage immediately upstream of the take-out

valve (11).

7. (Currently amended) An adapter according to claim 6, characterized in, [[the]] a valve part (17)

of the pressure equalizing valve (16) being biased in the cut-off position by a flexible, preferably

elastic, biasing force so small, that the pressure equalizing valve can open for pressure compensation

with the fluid level being on level with the free surface of the attachment means in the outlet (6).

8. (Currently amended) An adapter according to claim 7, characterized in, the means [[of]] in the

device (9) for opening of the take-out valve (11) [[is]] being controllable.

9. (Previously presented) An adapter according to claim 8, characterized in, the elastomer (12) of

the attachment means being shaped as a sleeve (18), which is mounted on a supporting, preferably

tubular, structure (19) of the adapter body (20).

10. (Currently amended) An adapter according to claim 9, characterized in, the body (20) of the

adapter (1) [[is]] being shaped by moulding, preferably by injection moulding.

11. (Previously presented) An adapter according to claim 10, characterized in, the adapter's (1) flow

passage from the container (4) to the device (9) being substantially linear.

12. (Currently amended) An adapter according to claim 11, characterized in, the attachment means

(2) being designed for engagement attack of the actually utilized container (4) exclusively in the outlet

**(6)**.

13. (Currently amended) Use of an An adapter according to claim 1, characterized in, the liquid being

drinkable drinking water, preferably mineral drinking water.

14. (Currently amended) Use of an An adapter according to claim 1, characterized in, the container

(4) being a bottle, preferably of transparent plastic material, preferably approved for use with human

food.

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- 15. (Currently amended) Use of an An adapter according to claim 1, characterized in, the device
- (9) being an espresso machine, preferably designed as a domestic appliance.